

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1 and 3-7, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet processing apparatus having folding means for folding a sheet on which an image was formed and wherein the sheet folded by said folding means is discharged onto a folded sheet stacking portion through a folded sheet discharging port, comprising:

sheet stacking means provided in a main body of said apparatus for a shifting movement in an up-and-down direction and adapted to stack a sheet discharged from an upper discharging port provided above said folded sheet discharging port without ~~passed~~ passing through said folding means;

a shutter member provided in said main body of said apparatus for a shifting movement in an up-and-down direction and adapted to be lifted and lowered upon upward and downward shifting movements of said sheet stacking means to open and close said folded sheet discharging port; and

a pressing member provided on said shutter member and adapted to push the sheet stacked on said folded sheet stacking portion.

2. (Original) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising position control means for stopping said sheet stacking means at a predetermined position where said shutter member lightly abuts against the sheet stacked on said folded sheet

stacking portion when said sheet stacking means are lowered in a condition that the sheet is stacked on said folded sheet stacking portion.

3. (Currently Amended) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said position control means include folded sheet detecting means for detecting the sheet stacked on said folded sheet stacking portion and position detecting means for detecting the fact that said sheet stacking means ~~reach~~ has reached the predetermined position where said shutter member lightly abuts against the sheet stacked on said folded sheet stacking portion.

4. (Currently Amended) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said position detecting means are provided at a position where said position detecting means detect that said sheet stacking means has reached ~~to~~ the predetermined position where said shutter member lightly abuts against the sheet stacked on said folded sheet stacking portion.

5. (Currently Amended) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said position detecting means are designed so that said position detecting means detect the fact that said sheet stacking means has reached ~~reach~~ the predetermined position where said shutter member lightly abuts against the sheet stacked on said folded sheet stacking portion, on the basis of a sheet stacking height of the sheet stacked on said sheet stacking means.

6. (Currently Amended) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said position detecting means detect the fact that the sheet stacked on said sheet

stacking means ~~reaches~~ has reached a predetermined sheet stacking height, by detecting a position of an uppermost sheet among sheets stacked on said sheet stacking means.

7. (Currently Amended) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said position detecting means detects the sheet stacking height of sheets stacked on said sheet stacking means by counting the number of sheets discharged onto said sheet stacking means.

8. (Original) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image forming portion for forming an image on a sheet; and
a sheet processing apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 7, processing the sheet on which the image was formed by the image forming portion.